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Message Text

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20
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 CPR-01 L-03 AGRE-00 /046 W
---------- 108804
R 031054Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1701
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, OTRA, UR, US, CSCE
SUBJECT: EMBASSY TRAVEL - NOVEMBER

REF: (A) MOSCOW 17834, (B) STATE 285721

1. SUMMARY. NOVEMBER WITNESSED A SURGE IN EMBASSY TRAVEL REFUSALS OR ALTERATIONS, MAJORITY OF WHICH ARE DESCRIBED REF A. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY TRAVEL STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER 1976 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

REQUESTS - 53
DESTINATIONS - 83
TRAVELERS - 101
SELF-CANCELLED - 10
REFUSED/ALTERED - 8

NO EXCEPTIONS REQUESTED OR DENIED.

3. EMBASSY SUBMITTED SIX (6) TRAVEL NOTES IN NOVEMBER FOR THIRTEEN (13) SOVIET EMPLOYEES TO DRIVE TO TWELVE (12) DESTINATIONS.

4. IN ADDITION TO 4 TRAVEL REFUSALS/ALTERATIONS REPORTED REF A, MFA PROTOCOL (VACHNADZE) REFUSED RAIL TRAVEL TO FIRST
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SECRETARY COMBS AND FAMILY BETWEEN VILNIUS AND RIGA ON NOV. 24.

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FYI - IN UNINTENDED CONFIRMATION OF EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT OBSERVATION THAT THERE IS NO REAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PERMANENTLY CLOSED AREAS, PROHIBITED MODES OF TRANSPORT AND THOSE REFUSED "FOR REASONS OF A TEMPORARY NATURE,," VACHNADZE INITIALLY INSISTED THAT ONLY AIR TRAVEL WAS PERMITTED BETWEEN VILNIUS AND RIGA. IT WAS ONLY AFTER TRAVEL OFFICER DIRECTED HIS ATTENTION TO THE SOVIET MFA NOTE NO. 60/PR OF JULY 22, 1966 WHICH PROVIDES FOR RAIL TRAVEL TO AND FROM BOTH VILNIUS AND RIGA AS WELL THAT VACHNADZE PROSCRIBED TRAIN TRIP FOR "ROTN". END FYI.

5. THREE ADDITIONAL TRIPS CANCELLED WHEN TRANSPORT OR ACCOMMODATIONS ARRANGEMENTS FELL THROUGH. TRAVEL BY SECOND SECRETARY MILLER AND WIFE OVER REVOLUTION HOLIDAY TO VILNIUS CANCELLED DUE TO NO HOTEL. EMBOFFS BYRNES AND GRAY HAD FLIGHT TO MURMANSK CANCELLED DUE TO BAD WEATHER NOV. 6. SECOND SECRETARY SMITH AND WIFE HAD REVOLUTION WEEKEND TRIP TO RIGA CANCELLED DUE TO NO TRAIN OR HOTEL SPACE.

6. RE REF B PARA 2, MFA PROTOCOL HAS FINALLY DETERMINED THAT YURIEV-POLSKIY IS LOCATED IN AN OPEN AREA BUT CONTINUES TO DENY TRAVEL THERE FOR "ROTN" (REF A, PARA 7).

7. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON RETALIATION.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, TRAVEL CONTROLS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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